

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02708 191851Z
ACTION SY-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 /007 W
-----127527 191854Z /43
R 191154Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8746

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2708

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS FOR SY DASS DIKEOS AND INFO AF/E POST AND
AF/EX SALAZAR FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: VISIT OF S/A PENN

1. AS I AM CERTAIN YOU ARE WELL AWARE, RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE U.S. AND ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN TENOUS FOR A LONG TIME
AND AT PRESENT ARE AGAIN AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE. EVEN
MINOR ANNOYANCES TO THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF
SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA (PMGSE) OR UNFAVORABLE INCIDENTS
INVOLVING THE AMERICAN MISSION COULD HAVE A DRAMATIC IMPACT.

2. THE NEED TO DISPOSE OF THE IRRAELI HAND GRENADES COULD
HAVE LED TO JUST THIS SORT OF INCIDENT WHICH WOULD HAVE
DAMAGED OR AT THE VERY LEAST EMBARRASSED OUR RELATIONS.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH RSO SARTAIN
THAT THEIR DESTRUCTION WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS
AND LOCALS WORKING AND LIVING ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND
AN OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION. COOPERATION FROM THE
PMGSE WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS IMPOSED BY SAFETY WAS OUT OF
THE QUESTION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02708 191851Z

3. I WOULD THEREFORE, LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS
MY APPRECIATION AND THAT OF THE ENTIRE MISSION FOR THE COURAGE
OF AND JOB DONE EXPERTLY BY SPECIAL AGENT PENN AND TO COMMENT
ON THE PROFESSIONALISM AND TIMELY RESPONSE OF SY AS A WHOLE.

4. IT'S ASSETS SUCH AS THESE WHICH CREDIT YOUR ORGANIZATION
AND BENEFIT THE FOREIGN SERVICE AS A WHOLE. IT IS COMFORTING

TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SKILLS SUCH AS SPECIAL AGENT PENN'S
AVAILABLE WHEN THE NEED ARISES, ALSO THAT THE PEOPLE IN SY ARE
READY TO RISK THEIR OWN LIVES FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR COUNTRY.
I KNEW THIS INTELLECTUALLY FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THE 1976
INSPECTION OF SY, BUT THIS EXPERIENCE BROUGHT IT HOME TO ME
VIVIDLY.

5. AGAIN, WELL DONE AND MANY THANKS TO YOU AND TO S/A PENN.
RSO SARTAIN AND HIS PREDECESSOR, J.S. HIPSON, HAVE BEEN TOLD
PERSONALLY OF MY RESPECT AND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR INTELLIGENT
HANDLING OF THIS MATTER. SARTAIN, INCIDENTALLY, HELPED PENN IN
THE DESTRUCTION AND ALSO SHOWED EXEMPLARY COURAGE.
MATHERON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0667
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780646/aaaabnqq.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b50b4186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2305188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF S/A PENN
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b50b4186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014